United Nations A/64/892 S/2010/427

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2010

Original: English

Sixty fourth session
Agenda item 13
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 10 August 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter dated 10 August 2010 from Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, addressed to you, regarding facts concerning Thailand-Cambodia relations (see annex).

I have further the honour to request that the above-mentioned letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Norachit **Sinhaseni**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 10 August 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 8 August 2010 from the Prime Minister of Cambodia addressed to you (A/64/891-S/2010/426, annex), I have the honour to inform you that my remarks as they appeared in the said letter were misquoted, taken out of context and misunderstood. In this connection, I have further the honour to inform you of facts regarding this matter as follows:

First, Thailand attaches great importance to maintaining good and cordial relations will all neighbouring countries, including Cambodia, which is a fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations family. Despite the current challenges in the bilateral relations between Thailand and Cambodia, the two countries still maintain close cooperation and coordination within many bilateral and regional frameworks. Leaders and officials at all levels from both countries have maintained regular contacts and exchanges of visits, especially in the frameworks of subregional cooperation. Border trade, cross-border tourism and people-to-people contacts between peoples on both sides continue unabated without any disruption.

Secondly, the intention of the Royal Thai Government is to solve the problem of the land boundary between Thailand and Cambodia through the implementation of the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Survey and Demarcation of the Land Boundary. Therefore, I instructed both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence to closely coordinate with one another and with their Cambodian counterparts, including through the General Border Committee and the Regional Border Committee.

Thirdly, Thailand observes strictly the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Thailand has fully complied with the Judgment of the International Court of Justice in 1962 concerning the Temple case. It is Thailand's conviction that any differences between countries shall be settled by peaceful means. Thailand is pleased to note the reaffirmation by the Prime Minister of Cambodia that it is not the policy of Cambodia to use force to settle any problem with neighbouring countries. Thailand too has the same policy. For this reason, the memorandum of understanding serves as a framework for negotiations between Thailand and Cambodia in relation to the land boundary. Thailand therefore expects strict adherence to the memorandum of understanding. The current problem arises from Cambodia's encroachment of Thailand's territory in violation of international law, and in particular article 5 of the memorandum of understanding, which states that:

> "To facilitate the effective survey along the entire stretch of the common land boundary, authorities of either Government and their agents shall not carry out any work resulting in changes of environment of the frontier zone, except that which is carried out by the Joint Technical Sub-Commission in the interest of the survey and demarcation."

I also informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations in 2009 about the problem that occurred because of the inscription by Cambodia of the Temple on the World Heritage List in 2008, while the surrounding area is in Thailand's territory.

Fourthly, Thailand believes that only by working together on the basis of friendship and good-neighbourliness can Thailand and Cambodia overcome the current differences for the benefit of the two countries and peoples. In this spirit, Thailand remains committed to working closely and in good faith with Cambodia through existing bilateral frameworks, including the Joint Boundary Commission, to achieve peaceful resolution of differences between the two countries.

I have the honour to request you to circulate this letter to all members of the General Assembly and the Security Council for their information.

(*Signed*) Abhisit **Vejjajiva**
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand